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The Honorable Q. Todd Dickinson
 Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
 and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
 U.S. Department of Commerce
 Patent and Trademark Office
 Washington, DC 20231

Dear Mr. Director:

We know that you are as disheartened as we are over the recent allocation for the USPTO as set forth in the current mark of the House Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill. In addition to adopting the President's budget request that an additional \$113 million be diverted from your agency, the appropriators chose to siphon another \$182 million, including an estimated \$48 million in FY 2001 funds which were not taken into account in your budget forecast estimates. If adopted, this development will force the USPTO to operate with 25% less than the total fees paid by customers to process their applications for patents and trademarks.

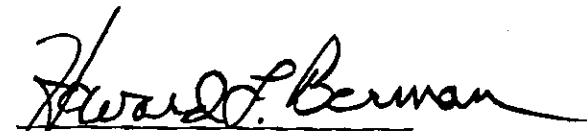
The purpose of this letter is to obtain from you all relevant data and other information as to how these spending reductions will affect your operations. How will the cuts be implemented? What is the practical impact on the USPTO and the users whom you serve?

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to working with other supporters of your agency and the intellectual property community in acquiring more funds which the USPTO both needs and deserves.

Sincerely,



HOWARD COBLE
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on Courts and
 Intellectual Property



HOWARD BERMAN
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Courts and
 Intellectual Property

HC/bsm